

Public Sector Union Statement

We, the undersigned Unions, collectively and proudly represent tens of thousands of workers employed in the public sector in Western Australia. Our members work from Albany to Kununurra and everywhere in between. They work in every profession, occupation and trade and do so to ensure that all West Australians continue to enjoy the quality of life we have come to enjoy. Public sector workers are the glue that holds our diverse communities together and are the cornerstone of our society.

Members of public sector unions dedicate their working lives to providing quality services and support to our communities. They know this is best delivered by a public sector that is properly resourced, retains expertise through secure employment, remains firmly in public hands and is answerable to the people of WA.

Public sector unions are committed to continuing the fight for investment in public services – and the people who deliver them - for the benefit of all Western Australians. We recognise the current restrictive public sector wages policy imposed by the state government as a significant barrier to this investment.

This policy stifles productivity gains, reduces creativity and curtails the internationally recognised right of workers to collectively bargain. Its continuation is unsustainable and a threat to the ongoing attraction and retention of skilled, experienced workers, which places the provision of critical services Western Australians rely on at risk.

We therefore enter into a public sector union alliance which will use its collective might to:

1. end the current restrictive, fixed public sector wages policy;
2. effect a return to genuine collective bargaining in the public sector; and
3. secure outcomes that represent a meaningful investment in public sector workers.

As members of the alliance, we commit to working collectively to secure investment in the public sector by:

1. using our available resources whether political, industrial or organisational, to secure a successful outcome for all workers covered by the public sector union alliance in the 2022 round of bargaining;
2. communicating any offer made to our union with all other parties to the alliance prior to the balloting of membership; and
3. not endorsing any balloted offer which does not secure recurring investment greater than the current restrictive policy of \$1000 p.a.

The agreement above reflects the commitment of members of the alliance to collective action to secure investment in the public sector. It does not override the democratic right of any group of workers to accept or reject a government offer.

In this fight we speak with one voice.